based on schedule information. If so, then the user interface is updated at module **1360**. If not, the user interface is displayed as is at module **1330**.

[**0082**] The process of modules **1330**, **1340**, **1350** and **1360** can then repeat, taking into account later schedule information for meetings, web conferences, and the like, and updating the user interface as appropriate. Moreover, changes in system information (availability of people for example) may also constitute changes at module **1350**. Module **1360** would then respond to changes in availability by updating the user interface.

[**0083**] Operation of the client in a communications scenario may provide further details. FIG. **14** illustrates yet another embodiment of updating a user interface in a communications system. Process **1400** includes displaying a user interface, receiving a user request or a schedule change, updating the user interface, determining if communication is starting, handling the communication and ending the communication.

[**0084**] Process **1400** is illustrated as starting with display of a user interface at module **1410**. This likely presumes some sort of setup of the user interface based on profiles has already occurred. Next, either at module **1420** or module **1430**, an event triggers a change in the user interface. A user request at module **1420** may relate to looking for information about another user (in order to contact that other user, for example), Similarly, a user request at module **1420** may be a request to initiate communication.

[**0085**] A schedule change at module **1430** represents a simple schedule change or some other change in status within the system. Thus, an upcoming meeting may trigger module **1430**. Alternately, a user indicating lack of availability (e.g. telling the system to not accept phone calls) may trigger module **1430**.

[**0086**] At module **1440**, the user interface is updated. This may relate to some form of escalation or de-escalation of part of the system, for example. Alternatively, it may relate to updating a relatively static display with new information. The new information may take the form of updated contact information or may take the form of different permissions from a user for interaction with other users or use of modes of communication.

[**0087**] At module **1440**, a determination is made as to whether communication is starting. If not, the user interface is displayed in its current form at module **1410**. If so, the communication is handled by the client/system at module **1460**. The communication is eventually terminated by the client/system at module **1470**. Handling the communication may include expanding a window in the user interface for a web-conference or piping telephone audio through a computer's microphone and speakers, for example. Additionally, ending the communication may involve contracting a window in the user interface or otherwise reshaping the user interface.

[**0088**] One skilled in the art will appreciate that although specific examples and embodiments of the system and methods have been described for purposes of illustration, various modifications can be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the present invention. Similarly, features and aspects of various embodiments may be integrated into other embodiments, and embodiments illustrated in this document may be implemented without all of the features or aspects illustrated or described. For example, embodiments of the present invention may be applied to many different types of databases, systems and application programs. Moreover, features of one embodiment may be incorporated into other embodiments, even where those features are not described together in a single embodiment within the present document. While embodiments described herein are intended to be exemplary, these embodiments provide examples of embodiments of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

displaying a set of communications interfaces in a user interface;

receiving data related to a schedule of communications;

receiving data related to people participating in communications of the schedule of communications;

modifying the set of communications interfaces responsive to data related to people participating in communications;

predicting upcoming communications sessions responsive to data related to the schedule of communications; and

modifying the set of communications interfaces responsive to the predicting.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the data related to people participating in communications includes personal status information for people.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein:

the data related to people participating in communications includes contact information for people.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes an email interface.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes a peer-to-peer communications interface.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes a chat interface.

7. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes a voice-over-IP communications interface.

8. The method of claim 3, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes a videoconference communications interface.

9. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

showing data related to people participating in an incoming communication request.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein:

the set of communications interfaces includes a peer-to-peer communications interface, a voice-over-IP communications interface, and a videoconference communications interface.